

I CLAIM:-

1. A collapsible steering column assembly for a vehicle, the assembly including a steering column mounting bracket itself being mountable on a vehicle body part, there being a deformable component that is joined to the mounting bracket and that can collapse in the event of vehicle crash thereby to absorb energy.
2. An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the deformable component is integral with the mounting bracket.
3. An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the mounting bracket supports upper and lower subassemblies of the steering column.
4. An assembly according to claim 3, wherein the upper and lower subassemblies are slidably mounted one on the other.
5. An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the deformable component has a normal positional relationship with the mounting bracket in which it is restrained by at least one locating means.
6. An assembly according to claim 5, wherein the locating means comprises at least one slot in the mounting bracket and a locating pin on the deformable component.
7. An assembly according to claim 6, wherein there are two such slots and locating pins that mate with their respective slots.

8. An assembly according to claim 6, wherein the slot is an open slot.

9. An assembly according to claim 5, wherein the locating means comprises at least one slot in the deformable component and a locating pin on the mounting bracket.

10. An assembly according to claim 1, wherein there are two such slots and locating pins that mate with their respective slots.

11. An assembly according to claim 9, wherein the slot is an open slot.

12. An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the deformable component comprises at least one stiff strip so configured as to provide a region of weakness about which the strip can be bent and thus collapsed upon receiving a compressive force along the length of the strip.

13. An assembly according to claim 12, wherein said strip has one end that is joined to the mounting bracket another end that is free, said free end of the strip forming a mounting for a pivot member.

14. An assembly according to claim 10, wherein the pivot member supports a universal joint bearing assembly of the steering column.

PROPRIETARY MATERIAL
© 2005 Ford Motor Company. All Rights Reserved.

15. An assembly according to claim 1 and having provision for rake and/or reach adjustment of the steering column.